

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended as follows:

The paragraph bridging Pages 5 and 6 of the substitute specification (filed June 7, 2002) has been amended as follows:

Figures 1 to 4 show a first embodiment of the invention. Here, two supporting profiles 1 each have a round cross-section and, on their outer circumference, longitudinally extending grooves 2. At their open front ends, the supporting profiles each have a slid-in adapter piece 3 ~~which is held in the axial position by screws 4 laterally inserted into the corresponding openings~~. This adapter piece 3 is utilized for fastening an end disk 5 on the face side of the supporting profile 1 by means of screws 6 which are threaded in the threaded openings 7 of the adapter piece 3. The adapter piece 3 is inserted in guides 30 pointing toward the interior of the supporting profile 1 and is axially held by means of securing devices which are inserted in bores penetrating the guides 30. In the illustrated embodiment, for example, the adapter piece 3 is held in the axial position by screws 4 laterally inserted into the corresponding openings. A lug having an end in the shape of a disk 9 is fastened on the end disk 5 and extends perpendicularly from the disk surface. The disk 9, as illustrated particularly in Figure 3, is provided with a center bore 10. A bolt 11, threaded at least at one of its two ends, is guided through the center bores 10 of the disk-type ends 9 of both end disks 5, connecting the end disks 5 in a mutually rotatable manner. The end disks 5 are each mounted in the above-described manner on the face side on the supporting profiles 1. Nuts 12 hold the two disks 9 against one another. In order to permit a tool-less assembly, butterfly nuts instead of the nuts 12 may be used in this case. The disks are then, for aesthetic reasons, covered on the outside by hemispheres 13 respectively. Each hemisphere is screwed onto the thread of the respective bolt 11 by means of a threaded part 14 provided in the hemisphere 13. The arrangement according to Figure 1 therefore permits the articulated joining of two supporting profiles in each case by the arrangement of end disks.

